



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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April 2-8 is Week of the Young Child

Safe Kids Kansas offers baby and toddler safety tips

April 2-8 is the 35th annual Week of the Young Child, and Safe Kids Kansas reminds parents and caregivers that early childhood education begins with safe spaces for babies and toddlers at home, at play and on the way. “Accidental injury is the leading killer of Kansas children age 1-14. Not disease, not violence, but traumatic injury from preventable accidents,” says Jan Stegelman, Safe Kids Kansas coordinator.

Safe Kids Kansas provides these basic tips for kids ages 0-3:

- **In the nursery:** Remove pillows, soft bedding and toys from crib; put your baby “back to sleep” (face up) on a firm mattress. Keep cribs away from windows and furniture. Install guards on windows that you will open, and tie up cords on curtains and blinds. Install smoke alarms on every floor and outside all sleeping areas. Install safety gates at top and bottom of stairs.
- **In the kitchen:** Never leave a hot stove unattended. Keep hot liquids, poisons and electrical cords out of reach, and keep cleaning products and other poisons locked out of reach. Don’t let children under age 3 eat small, round or hard foods such as hot dogs, grapes, hard candy, nuts or popcorn.
- **In the bath:** Mix hot and cold water together, and test the temperature before putting the baby in. Set your hot water heater to 120 degrees to help prevent scalding. Never leave a baby alone in the bath.
- **On the playground:** Actively supervise children on the playground — be within arm’s reach. Avoid playgrounds with asphalt surfaces. Don’t let kids wear jewelry or drawstring clothes on the playground. Pools should be fenced on all four sides and have self-closing gates.
- **In the car:** Children under 13 should always ride in the back seat in proper restraints. Babies under 1 year old **and** those under 20 pounds must ride in a rear-facing car seat, reclined at a 45-degree angle. Always check the harness for proper fit.

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Week of the Young Child/2222

For more information about baby safety topics such as childproofing, scalding, playground safety, drowning prevention and child passenger safety, visit www.usa.safekids.org. A new educational video, *Smart Parents, Safe Kids*, produced by Safe Kids Worldwide with a grant from the MetLife Foundation, is available in English and Spanish and is shown in maternity wards, pediatricians' offices, prenatal classes and parenting support groups nationwide as well as at Safe Kids events. Copies are available through the online resource catalog at www.usa.safekids.org.

Week of the Young Child, first observed in 1971, is coordinated each year by the National Association for the Education of Young Children to call attention to the importance of the preschool years as a "foundation for children's success in school and later life." For more information, visit www.naeyc.org.

Safe Kids Kansas, Inc. is a nonprofit Coalition of 67 statewide organizations and businesses dedicated to preventing accidental injuries to Kansas children ages 0-14. Local coalitions and chapters are located in Allen, Anderson, Atchison, Clay, Dickinson, Doniphan, Douglas, Ellis, Ford, Franklin, Geary, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Leavenworth, Marion, Meade, Mitchell, Montgomery, Nemaha, Osage, Pottawatomie, Republic, Rice, Riley, Saline, Smith, Shawnee, Wabaunsee, Wilson and Woodson Counties, as well as the cities of Chanute, Emporia, Leavenworth, Norton, Pittsburg, the Wichita Area and the Metro Kansas City Area. Safe Kids Kansas a member of Safe Kids Worldwide, a global network of organizations whose mission is to prevent accidental childhood injury.

www.kansassafekids.org

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